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PERIOD COVERING JULY 1, 2005 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

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This quarterly report for Task Order 811, reflecting the period of July – September 2005, is presented by Casals and Associates, Inc., (C&A), in compliance with Contract No. AEP-I-00-00-00010-00.

Summary

With four months left in the present contract, the Program is on track to complete its work plan on time, including several requests from USAID for additional projects. The Program will continue to February 5, 2006, given a three-month extension granted in early October 2005. The revised and approved work plan, programs all activities to conclude before mid-January 2006, so that the Program can fully report on results by the end of the contract. As well, the budget was modified to reflect the three-month extension and additional projects. The Program eliminated two activities from the work plan – a third training-of-trainers workshop for civil society organizations and a third teleconference on sanctioning corruption with the US Embassy. Funds for the training workshop were re-assigned to enable USAID to conduct an evaluation of the Program, at USAID's request. For the third teleconference, the Embassy encountered scheduling problems for this year, due to the press of other vital themes for their seminars and teleconferences.

In July, the Program presented a strategy paper to USAID for a six-month extension from February-July 2006, so that important USAID support for anti-corruption activities will continue during the long government transition period that began in June 2005 and may even continue after February 2006 if presidential, congressional, and prefectural elections are not held in December 2005 as scheduled.

When the transition government of Eduardo Rodriguez named a new Transparency and Public Integrity Delegate, Javier Diez de Medina, in late June 2005, the Program offered its assistance in a variety of ways as well as specific suggestions for useful activities, as the transition office sought to define its role for its six-month term. The Delegate chose, as his only request, to sponsor the Program's mass television and radio education campaign, designed with the former Delegación Presidencial Anticorrupción and ready for production in May. However, since it could not be produced and aired before the electoral campaign begins in full force, with the changes requested by the Delegate, the Program cancelled the campaign. The Program did not offer the campaign for sponsorship to the "Red Anticorrupción Bolivia" for the same reasons of lack of time to air the campaign before the electoral campaign saturates the airwaves. The former Delegate, Gudalupe Cajías, wrote an additional letter of thanks for Program work in August.

Despite the lack of a central, national counterpart since June, Program activities are moving forward without major complications and with strong counterparts in civil society and other government entities in both sanction and prevention of corruption. The most important new force is the Red Anticorrupción Bolivia, a network of 10 non-profit organizations committed to the fight against corruption. It began and is supported with the help of the Program.

To help with increased activity, the Program hired two new staff in September: a secretary/receptionist and a communicator.

Highlights of the Quarter

Sanction of Corruption

- ✓ Commitments from the Public Ministry and the Police to continue the anti-corruption task forces in the coming year.

- ✓ Coordination with European anti-corruption donors to transfer information about the task forces for financing within the Plan Integral Anticorrupción.
- ✓ The task forces have 18 active cases, two sentences, 13 cases resolved, 34 defendants under investigation, and seven defendants charged; the teams are making records for unprecedented fast case work in Bolivia.
- ✓ Ethics codes approved by the National Police and the Public Ministry (their first-ever), and to be approved in October by the Judicial Power.
- ✓ More than 600 cases under the old Criminal Procedure Code already resolved in the Project Against Impunity, with vital inventory information collected and analyzed for the first time, and in use by both the Public Ministry and the Judicial Power.

Civil Society Involvement

- ✓ Red Anticorrupción Bolivia formed and executing projects, including citizen training, government monitoring, and legislative initiatives, and planning a high-profile presidential candidate debate on anti-corruption.
- ✓ Four of the six Program grantees completed their projects in September, with two scheduled to complete in October; results are above those expected or required in the grant terms.
- ✓ Train-the-trainers workshop resulted in 30 motivated, strong NGO trainers nationwide, with a USAID grant fund to finance continued training sessions for citizen groups.
- ✓ Field work and first report of the national “costs of corruption” survey completed.

Component I: Sanction of Corruption

Anti-Corruption Task Forces

The teams, both in La Paz and Cochabamba, have reached a year of maturity, reflected in the quality and quantity of their work. Program staffer Lola Araujo was a featured presenter at the International Migration Conference in July, where she was asked to present the task forces as a model for prosecuting other kinds of crime with interinstitutional teams. In August, the Attorney General called a meeting of the heads of other state sanction entities to present the results of task force work, to affirm his commitment to continuing the task forces, and to provide a platform for other authorities to affirm their commitment.

The teams continued their training, as well as an internal evaluation conducted by the teams themselves, with a series of workshops in July, August, and September. The teams acknowledge the intensive training and reflection in the past year as essential to their success. Two teleconferences, sponsored by the US Embassy with technical assistance of USAID/Casals, and panel members composed of task force team members, drew more than 100 audience members from Bolivian sanction entities, and focused attention on Bolivian efforts to sanction corruption.

The teams are now in the process of reporting on their experience, and this, in addition to solid information about how to operate such task forces, is being collected into a manual to be published by mid-January.

The Program will present an international conference in November to focus attention on the vital importance of sanctioning corruption, and task force efforts.

Project Against Impunity

The project is succeeding above expectation in resolving cases under the old Criminal Procedure Code which have languished for the past five years without resolution. As of September 30, more than 600 cases are resolved in the Sucre, La Paz, and Cochabamba prosecutor's offices and superior (appellate) courts as well as the Supreme Court; the project design calls for 400 cases by the end of the project, scheduled for October 30.

In addition, exceeding project expectations, the Program is developing a first-time ever inventory of such cases in the three districts and courts. The district attorneys and appellate courts are already using this inventory as they design follow-on systems to tackle remaining cases under the old Criminal Procedure Code. To help further, the Program produced a detailed manual for resolving these cases.

Ethics Codes

The first-time codes for the National Police, Judicial Power, and Attorney General's Office each come with detailed curriculum and materials to train the rank-and-file as well as their leaders in applying the ethical principles in their daily work. The Police train-the-trainers sessions are now scheduled for November. A discipline code is now being designed for the nation's attorneys, and is scheduled for completion in January.

Component II: Civil Society Involvement

Grants Fund

Four of the six grantees, with government monitoring and legislative initiative projects, completed their work in September and presented their work publicly. The remaining two will finish in October. Most of the projects have greater-than-expected results by moving to the next step: persuading their local governments to adopt new ordinances and institute new transparency activities. This small grant project has been an important Program success: it provided the basis for the civil society initiatives that resulted in a nationwide anti-corruption training project, six replicable government monitoring projects at the local level, and formation of the national civil society anti-corruption network.

Training Trainers in Anti-Corruption

Members of the Red Anticorrupcion Bolivia, as well as staff for a selection of other non-profit organizations, totalling 30 participants from throughout Bolivia, earned recognition as trainers in anti-corruption at the Program's September three-day training event. Each organization is now eligible to apply for funding to present training sessions, using the Anti-Corruption Training Packet for Civil Society produced by the Program and sponsored by the Red Anticorrupcion Bolivia. By the end of September, the Program received thirteen proposals for funding, and will award the grants in October.

In coordination with another USAID democracy contractor, IGMA, which works at the municipal government level, the Program developed a set of training materials for employees of municipal governments and citizens, and has scheduled a national train-the-trainers session for October. IGMA will continue to fund the training sessions for municipal governments and citizens throughout the country in the coming year, using the training materials.

Citizen Anti-Corruption Network

The network of ten non-profit organizations, established with the encouragement and support of the Program in May, is sponsoring the publication of the training packet for civil society, developing a forum for presidential candidates to present their anti-corruption proposals in November, preparing a selection of each organization's

staff as anti-corruption trainers, and planning to help publicize the results of the “costs of corruption” study in November-January. This impressive early showing of activities and will is a testament to a strong current of anti-corruption interest in civil society.

Costs of Corruption Survey

In cooperation with the USAID/AAA Program based in Washington, the Program helped coordinate the collection of national survey data; the initial data report was completed in September. The AAA Program is now analyzing the data, with the draft report due in October. The civil society committee formed as the steering committee helped design the survey, and will meet in October to review the draft report and prepare the public presentation. The report, with an executive summary and CDs with data ready for easy retrieval by the news media, will be presented publicly in November.

Component III: Strengthening Government Capacity

Reporting to the Organization of American States

The Program completed an evaluation of Canadian anti-corruption efforts, as required of Bolivia by the OAS, and delivered the report in July to the government anti-corruption delegate, who presented the report to the OAS. The Program developed recommendations for Bolivia, based on the most successful Canadian efforts.

Regional Anti-Corruption Offices

The Program, which established and supported three regional offices of the Delegacion Anticorrupcion Presidential for one year, until the DPA was closed down by the new transition government in July, is in the process of writing “lessons learned” from the experience. The document will be ready in November.

Program Directions for the Next Quarter

- ✓ Complete all activities in the work plan by January, with the exception of the anti-corruption task forces and the attorney discipline rules project, which will be completed by the end of January.
- ✓ Cooperate with European donors to continue the task forces in the coming year.
- ✓ Strengthen the Citizen Anti-Corruption Network to ensure its continuation.
- ✓ Broadly publicize the results of the costs of corruption survey.

Conclusion

Major successes of the quarter are clearly the formation of the citizen anti-corruption network and the increasing prominence and reach of the anti-corruption task forces. The task force model is now known in several other Latin American countries; the Program has received several requests from prosecutor’s offices in other countries to provide information. Bolivia is leading the way with the task forces; the model is unique here. With only a year to prepare cases (a Bolivian fast-track record), several cases are going to trial now. This speed, and the quality of case preparation, has attracted the attention of both the judiciary and prosecutors throughout Bolivia. This is the first time that Bolivia has had success at this level in sanctioning corruption.

The existence of the network is the hope of Bolivia in preventing corruption. With a national government in a long transition, and a new government unlikely to have solid strides in anti-corruption until the middle of next year at least, the network will hold the new government accountable for its anti-corruption plans, and prepare citizens to assume a proactive role for the first time in Bolivian history.